



Seattle City Council

April 11, 2011

Jill Simmons, Director
Office of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

Re: Climate Action Plan Update

Dear Ms. Simmons:

Thank you for your work to date on Seattle's Climate Action Plan. As you know, the Council considers environmental stewardship to be a core City value and looks forward to considering policy proposals and implementation measures that will result in a carbon-neutral future.

Each year the Council establishes priorities to guide committee work programs and focus Council actions. In 2010, the Council committed to exploring the feasibility of becoming a carbon neutral city and provided a forum for residents to share their ideas on how we might achieve that goal. Building upon this community input and momentum, the 2011 Council priorities for Environmental Stewardship state:


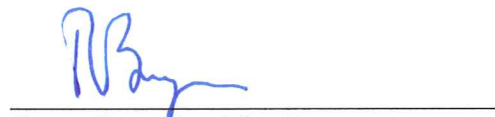

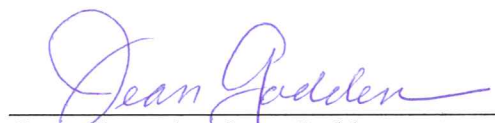


Develop specific milestones and steps for Seattle's carbon neutral goal, update the Climate Action Plan, and add "vehicle miles traveled" reduction targets to the Comprehensive Plan. Continue implementing the Zero Waste Strategy. Begin adapting to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

These priorities demonstrate the Council's commitment to adopting specific and measurable metrics to guide reduction in core emission areas, including emissions associated with transportation.

To implement those priorities, we request that the Office of Sustainability and the Environment forward a draft resolution to the Council by no later than May 9, 2011, which proposes an overarching City goal for achieving carbon neutrality by a specific date that the Council may incorporate into Council-generated legislation.

The draft resolution also should contain any measurable intermediate emission-reduction goals for transportation, buildings, energy supply and waste that can be defined based on analyses done to-date, including at minimum, goals for reduction of vehicle miles traveled by mode or sector that can be adopted in 2011. Additionally, the draft resolution should contain a schedule for completing the Climate Action Plan update by the end of 2012, including milestones and deliverables and a strategy for including and engaging Seattle's diverse communities in the planning process.

Sincerely,


Council President Richard Conlin
Councilmember Mike O'Brien
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
Councilmember Tim Burgess
Councilmember Sally J. Clark
Councilmember Jean Godden
Councilmember Bruce Harrell
Councilmember Nick Licata
Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

cc: Michael McGinn, Mayor, City of Seattle